

IN THE CLAIMS:

The text of all pending claims, (including withdrawn claims) is set forth below. Cancelled and not entered claims are indicated with claim number and status only. The claims as listed below show added text with underlining and deleted text with ~~striketrough~~. The status of each claim is indicated with one of (original), (currently amended), (cancelled), (withdrawn), (new), (previously presented), or (not entered).

1-14. (canceled)

15. (currently amended) A ruled line extracting apparatus, comprising:

a straight line extracting unit extracting information of one or more straight line patterns from an input image; and

a straight line deleting unit determining whether or not to delete ~~one~~ a first straight line pattern among the one or more straight line patterns by using information about a ratio between a height and a width of the ~~one~~ first straight line pattern among the one or more straight line patterns, and information about a distance between the first straight line pattern and a second straight line pattern.

16-27. (canceled)

28. (previously presented) A computer-readable storage medium, when used by a computer, to direct the computer to perform the functions of:

extracting information of one or more straight line patterns from an input image; and

determining whether or not to delete ~~one~~ a first straight line pattern among the one or more straight line patterns, using at least either of information about a ratio between a height and a width of the ~~one~~ first straight line pattern among the one or more straight line patterns, and information about a distance between the first straight line pattern and a second straight line pattern.

29-38. (canceled)

39. (previously presented) A ruled line extracting method, comprising the steps of:
extracting information of one or more straight line patterns from an input image; and
determining whether or not to delete ~~one~~ a first straight line pattern among the one or more straight line patterns, using at least either of information about a ratio between a height and a width of the ~~one~~ first straight line patter among the one or more straight line patterns, and information about a distance between the first straight line pattern and a second straight line pattern.

40-47. (canceled)

48. (previously presented) A ruled line extracting apparatus, comprising:
a straight line extracting unit extracting information of one or more straight line patterns from an input image; and
a straight line deleting unit deleting a first straight line pattern among the one or more straight line patterns when the first straight line pattern is adjacent to a second straight line pattern among the one or more straight line patterns and a distance between the first and second straight line patterns is less than a threshold value.

49. (previously presented) A ruled line extracting process, comprising:
extracting information of one or more straight line patterns from an input image; and
deleting a first straight line pattern among the one or more straight line patterns when the first straight line pattern is adjacent to a second straight line pattern among the one or more straight line patterns and a distance between the first and second straight line patterns is less than a threshold value.

50. (previously presented) A computer-readable storage medium, when used by a computer, to direct the computer to perform the functions of:
extracting information of one or more straight line patterns from an input image; and
deleting a first straight line pattern among the one or more straight line patterns when the first straight line pattern is adjacent to a second straight line pattern among the one or more

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straight line patterns and a distance between the first and second straight line patterns is less than a threshold value.